

TRIBUTE TO MR. NAPOLEON
FERNÁNDEZ GREGORY

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 1998

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Napoleon Fernández, an outstanding individual who has devoted his life to his family and to serving the community. Mr. Fernández celebrated his 80th birthday in the company of his family and friends on Saturday, August 22, 1998 at the Holy Cross Church Hall in the Bronx.

Mr. Fernández was born in the Dominican Republic. When he was in the 6th grade, he had to quit school to get a job in order to support his mother and two sisters. With the desire and absolute resolution to provide for his family, he became a barber at the age of 14 and 1 year later owned his own barbershop. Known as "Salon Figaro," the barbershop soon became the most famous in the Dominican Republic. He later entered show business and became an artistic entrepreneur who brought to the Dominican Republic famous musicians, such as Bobby Capo and Daniel Santos from Puerto Rico and Libertad Lamarque from Mexico. With his success blooming, he published a magazine called "Revistas Figaro."

In 1952, Mr. Fernández immigrated to the United States and obtained a barber's license within a year. He opened a shop on 112th Street and Broadway in Manhattan while still pursuing his musical career. He brought Armando Manzanero to the U.S. for the first time. He also went into the real state business and owned many buildings before losing them.

After his real state business failed because of the discrimination and the difficulties immigrants and minorities faced those days, he became a music teacher and gave music lessons in public schools in New York and in New Jersey. He was the first Hispanic PTA President from Brandeis High School and PS 145. He also played music with various artists such as the legendary Maestro Marco Rizzo and various bands such as Orchestras de Dominica, Chaparro and Alfredo Munar. Today, Mr. Fernández sings gospel music with the choir at Holy Cross Church and owns a baseball team, "The Boys of Figaro".

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Fernández was very involved in politics and clearly believes that electoral politics is honorable public service. He was very active in campaigns for former Representative Herman Badillo, the first Puerto Rican to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Mr. Fernández could have been the first Dominican elected to the New York State Assembly but he chose not to run.

Mr. Fernández has been married to Carmen for 36 years. They have 8 children and 19 grandchildren who are all doing very well.

His life of courage and his contributions to our country make all of us, the immigrant community and his family, truly proud.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and the family of Mr. Napoleon Fernández Gregory in wishing him a happy 80th birthday.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY ELDER

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 1998

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, Larry Elder is the top radio personality in Los Angeles. His drive-time radio show is heard by about 400,000 people per day, and an average of 72,000 people tune in at any given time. In overall audience, he trails only a few of the nation's best-known, nationally-syndicated hosts. Why is Larry Elder so popular? Because he thoughtfully espouses a message which stresses the importance of accountability, individual responsibility, and hard-work as keys to success.

Larry grew up in South Central Los Angeles, and he is now the self-proclaimed "Sage of South Central." He attended law school at the University of Michigan, and later worked as an executive headhunter in Cleveland before his radio talents were discovered. Cleveland's loss has become Los Angeles's gain. Larry has appeared on KABC radio for nearly 5 years, and his popularity has consistently grown.

One of the reasons for Larry's devoted following is that his views are often contrary to those espoused by other nationally-recognized African-American leaders. He argues that big government and excessive regulation inhibit economic growth. He supports school choice as a way to ensure that the children of lower-income families have access to good schools. Larry argues that the biggest problem for minorities in America is not white racism, but illegitimacy, which is fostered by a welfare state that liberal leaders have fought to preserve and expand.

Larry has survived and thrived in America's second-largest radio market despite a lengthy boycott aimed at depriving his show of important advertisers and forcing him off the air. This experience prompted Forbes magazine recently to note that "Larry Elder is one of a group of black dissenters who are winning public attention. Nevertheless, the business community is nervous of them: They fear arousing the wrath of pressure groups that can muster street boycotts." Despite concerns among sponsors about the shopping habits of those who want Larry off the air, the boycott seems only to have increased his popularity, and he is now looking toward a syndicated radio show, and possibly a book and television contract. Soon, the rest of the United States will benefit from the insight and humor of my friend, Larry Elder.

Mr. Speaker, Larry Elder is thoughtful and entertaining, and even his staunchest critics concede that his ideas merit serious debate. I believe that if more Americans took to heart his message of self-reliance, accountability and equal treatment, we would make great strides toward empowering the weakest in our society to improve their own lives through better education, safer neighborhoods, and enhanced economic opportunity. In turn, it would allow us to focus public resources on those who truly need assistance.

IN HONOR OF THE CITIZENS OF
TERRELL COUNTY ON THE OCCA-
SION OF THE PRICKLY PEAR
PACHANGA IN SANDERSON,
TEXAS

HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 1998

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I proudly represent the "Cactus Capital of Texas." The Cactus Capital is located in Sanderson. The residents of Sanderson and Terrell County are equally proud of this designation as they come together on October 10, 1998 to celebrate the first Prickly Pear Pachanga.

Just ask any Texan and they will tell you that Texas is a unique state with a rich culture and heritage. Each region has special characteristics and for Terrell County this would be the cacti.

More than 100 species of cacti grow in Texas, more than any other state. The cacti is known for growing in extreme drought and heat conditions. It is a tough plant that grows in a tough region and I believe it is only fitting that this plant is honored by West Texans.

The citizens of Terrell County should be commended for hosting the Prickly Pear Pachanga. There is nothing that represents Texas better than friends, neighbors and a community coming together to celebrate. I encourage all Americans to come to Sanderson to attend the festival so they will be able to partake of good fellowship, food and family fun.

A TRIBUTE TO THE TOWN OF
EAST HAMPTON, LONG ISLAND
ON ITS 350TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 1998

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in this hallowed chamber to ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me and my family, friends and neighbors in East Hampton, New York, as we celebrate the 350th anniversary celebration of this historic, seaside Long Island town.

Located at the eastern tip of Long Island's South Fork, East Hampton possesses a rich and storied history as one of this nation's earliest settlements, its 350-year legacy intertwined with the history of this great nation and the rest of Long Island as well.

East Hampton boasts the United States' first public works project, the Montauk Lighthouse commissioned by George Washington. Sag Harbor, on the town's western border with Southampton, served as home port for many great whaling ships during the heyday of that long since faded industry. Because it still possesses much of the natural beauty and idyllic scenery as it did in the 17th century, the Village of East Hampton has served as America's preeminent resort community for the wealthy for the past 120 years, a summertime magnet for the world's artistic, business and social elite.

The story begins in 1648, when a small band of Puritan settlers from Lynn, Massachusetts pushed through the woods of the South